

Appln. No. 09/883,438
Amdt. dated October 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated July 21, 2005

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes a change to Fig. 1.

This sheet, which includes Figs. 1 and 2, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1 and 2. In Fig. 1, the previously omitted elements 10 and 11 have been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet and Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

R E M A R K S / A R G U M E N T S

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The July 21, 2005 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, the specification, drawings and claims are amended, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

DRAWINGS

In the Office Action the drawings are objected to as the Examiner contends that Fig. 1 does not show elements 10 and 11. In response, Fig. 1 is amended to include elements 10 and 11 as requested by the Examiner (only part of element 10 being shown) and the specification is amended to refer to element 10 as a frame. Frame 10 includes the slot 11 over its entire height, i.e., through the entire cross-section of the frame, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, to prevent the formation of a current loop on the frame 10. A similar frame and slot are disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,529,720 (in Fig. 2 thereof). No new matter is introduced by the changes to Fig. 1 and the specification.

In view of the amendment of Fig. 1 and the specification, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are respectfully requested.

SPECIFICATION

In the Office Action the disclosure is objected to because of an informality at page 5, line 24. In response, the disclosure is amended to eliminate the contradiction pointed out by the Examiner. In view of the amendment of the disclosure, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure are respectfully requested.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The Abstract of the Disclosure is amended to be in better form. No new matter is added and a replacement sheet of the Abstract of the Disclosure without bracketing, strike-outs and underlining is attached to this response.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 112

In the Office Action claims 1-8 are rejected under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In response, claims 1, 3 and 7 are amended in a sincere effort to overcome the

indefiniteness rejection. In particular, claim 3 is amended to remove the phrase "open circuit" and to recite that the conductive layer includes bands separated by slots and which are oriented perpendicular to the at least one inductive element. Claim 7 is amended to replace the term "well" with the term "frame" which more accurately describes the element 10 which surrounds the inductive element. No new matter is added by the claim amendments.

In view of the amendment of the claims, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 are respectfully requested.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-10 are amended to place the claims in better form for consideration by the Examiner and to place the claims in better form for allowance. These amendments to claims 1-10 are not related to the patentability of the invention.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 98/50956 (Yue). Claims 1-5, 7, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by USP 6,529,720 (Jovenin et al.).

In response, independent claim 1 is amended in a sincere effort to more clearly define the present claimed invention over the cited references. The present invention as defined by amended claim 1 is patentable over the cited references for reasons, inter alia, set forth below.

The present claimed invention as defined by amended claim 1 is directed to an integrated circuit comprising a substrate, a conductive layer arranged on the substrate, at least one inductive element superposed on the conductive layer and formed by a metallic turn having an outermost contour and an innermost contour which bound between them a surface referred to as a radiation surface, and means for insulating the conductive layer from the at least one inductive element. The turn of the at least one inductive element has a free space in a center defining an active zone which is not covered by the radiation surface, the active zone being receivable of capacitive, resistive or semiconductor elements, and the conductive layer has a surface substantially identical to the radiation surface such that the conductive layer is situated around the active zone which is not covered by the radiation surface.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the inductive element 2 is in the form of a turn which has an innermost contour which defines or surrounds an active zone 8 which is integrated on a surface of

the substrate. The conductive layer 1 has a surface substantially identical to that of the inductive layer 2 and thus is also situated around the active zone (see Fig. 2). As such, the active zone is a free space, i.e., free of both the inductive element and the conductive element, which is capable of receiving capacitive, resistive or semiconductor elements which can function without being impaired by the inductive element (see the specification at page 5, lines 17-19).

Yue and Jovenin et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest an integrated circuit including all of the features set forth in claim 1.

Yue describes an integrated circuit including a substrate 16, a conductive layer 30 and at least one inductive element 10.

In contrast to the present claimed invention, the innermost contour of the inductive element in Yue does not include a turn having a free space in a center which defines an active zone receivable of capacitive, resistive or semiconductor elements. Rather, the inductive element 10 extends to and occupies the center space of the substrate (see Fig. 4D).

Yue mentions at page 14, lines 1-11 the possibility of placing circuitry in close proximity to the inductive element but such circuitry is placed above the inductive element, i.e., the "space above the inductor" is used. This differs significantly from the ability to place circuitry in an active zone which is

defined by (surrounded by) a turn of the inductive element as in the present claimed invention.

Jovenin et al. describe an integrated circuit including a substrate 2, a conductive layer 6 and an inductive element 4. The conductive layer 6 is made of alternating bands 8 and slots 9 (see Fig. 2). The inductive element 4 is formed so that it is superimposed on part of the active region 5 (see col. 3, lines 61-64).

In contrast to the present claimed invention, in the integrated circuit of Jovenin et al., the inductive element 4 does not have a turn which has an innermost contour having a free space defining an active zone. Rather, the inductive element 4 extends over at least a part of the active region 5.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is patentable over Yue and Jovenin et al. under 35 USC §102.

The other references of record do not close the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by claim 1 and Yue and Jovenin et al. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Yue and Jovenin et al. and all of the other references of record under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

Claims 2-10 are either directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1 and are patentable over the references of record in view of their dependence on claim 1 and because the references of

record do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in these claims.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication that claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated.

Claim 20 constitutes claim 8 rewritten in independent form and in view of the Examiner's comments regarding informalities in claim 1 in the rejection thereof under 35 USC 112. In view of the Examiner's indication of allowability of claim 8, claim 20 should be allowable over the prior art of record.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 11-20 are added. Claims 11-19 depend on claim 1 and are patentable over the references of record in view of their dependence on claim 1 and because the references of record do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in these claims.

As stated above, claim 20 includes the subject matter of original claim 8 and therefore is patentable over the prior art of record.

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It is respectfully submitted that no additional fees are due for the presentation of claims 11-20 because after entry of this Amendment, the present application includes only three (3) independent claims and twenty (20) total claims.

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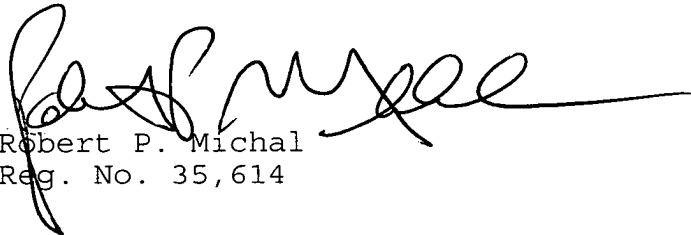
If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

Entry of the amendment, allowance of the claims, and the passing of the application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl.: Replacement Sheet of Drawings and Annotated Sheet of
Drawings Showing Changes to Figs. 1 and 2
Substitute Abstract of the Disclosure

